

feet and digits, keeping its whole body off the ground. It cannot move or walk on a vertical wall but sometimes raises the whole body vertically with the support of the forelimbs on the wall and the tip of the tail on the ground. Information regarding the natural habitat of this lizard is not well known.

#### IDENTIFICATION AND REMARKS:

Four species of the Fat-tailed Gecko belonging to genus *Eublepharis* Grey are so far known from the Indian region, of which *E. hardwickii* Grey is known to occur in the Eastern Indian states with particularly in Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (Smith, 1935). The present specimen has been identified as *Eublepharis hardwickii* Grey (Family Gekkonidae) by the Herpetology Department of Zoological Survey of India. The Accession Registrar of the National Zoological collection (Z.S.I. Calcutta) reveals that a single specimen was collected and reported for the first time from the southern part of West Bengal by a British scientist in 1858. The collection of the present specimen is therefore significant as the second report of the species after a lapse of 137 years. The present record of the specimen signifies interesting zoogeographical implications in terms

of its occurrence and rarity. In addition, the present specimen exhibits a noteworthy variation in its measurement (145 mm. vs 195 mm as referred by Smith, 1935) and colouration or banding pattern (a single creamy band at the base of the tail vs 4-5 creamy bands as referred by Smith, 1935). The tail of the present specimen is dotted with deep brown spots instead of bands as described by Smith (1935). In spite of these variations, it is not possible to describe this specimen as a new variety, since the present find is based on a single specimen.

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#### REFERENCE

SMITH, M.A. (1935): The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma, Reptilia and Amphibia Vol. 2. Sauria. Taylor and Francis, London. xii, 440 pp.

#### 24. *CALLOPHIS NIGRESCENS* (GUNTHER), (SERPENTES: ELAPIDAE) A COLOUR VARIATION FROM SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, KERALA

Gunther (1864) described the colour characteristics of *Callophis nigrescens* as having dark blackish ash or black upper side and uniformly red ventral side. Upper part of the head is symmetrically marbled with black, a black spot below the eye, another descending from the occipital to the angle of the mouth, a black horse-shoe like marking is present on the collar with the convexity directed forwards. A narrow black vertebral line slightly edged with yellow runs from the collar to the tip of

the tail. A series of small ovate black spots, indistinctly ridged with a whitish tint, is present along each side of the trunk, which disappears posteriorly. The tail is coloured like the body without black rings. Later, Smith (1943) described three colour forms of *Callophis nigrescens*. (1) Pale reddish or brownish above with 5 black stripes on the body, a vertebral and two lateral pairs, and three stripes on the tail, the outermost stripes being on scale rows one and two. The top of the head is black with light regular



Fat tailed lizard in West Bengal